

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 108

By Harper

A RESOLUTION relative to fatherless children.

WHEREAS, forty percent of children growing up today are being raised without their fathers; and

WHEREAS, approximately forty percent of children who do not live with their biological father have not seen him during the past twelve months; more than half of them have never been to his home; and twenty-six percent of those fathers live in a different state than their children; and

WHEREAS, children who grow up in fatherless homes have a much greater risk of major challenges in life than those who grow up with a father at home; and

WHEREAS, young men who grow up in homes without fathers are twice as likely to be incarcerated as those who come from traditional two-parent homes; and

WHEREAS, seventy percent of juveniles in state-operated institutions come from fatherless homes; and

WHEREAS, sixty-three percent of youth suicides are from fatherless homes; and

WHEREAS, eighty-five percent of all children that exhibit behavioral disorders come from fatherless homes; and

WHEREAS, seventy-one percent of all high-school dropouts come from fatherless homes; and

WHEREAS, a study from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services concluded that fatherless children are at a dramatically greater risk of drug and alcohol abuse; and

WHEREAS, divorce also has major negative impacts on children, and research indicates that fathers need to preserve marriage whenever possible and if divorced, need to be responsible and involved fathers; and

WHEREAS, following divorce, children are fifty percent more than likely to develop health problems; and

WHEREAS, teenagers in single-parent families are 300 percent more likely to need psychological help within any given year than teens from intact nuclear families; and

WHEREAS, adult children of divorce tend to have lower paying jobs and less college than their parents, unstable father-child relationships, a history of vulnerability to drugs and alcohol in adolescence, fears about commitment and divorce, and negative memories of the legal system that forced custody and visitation; and

WHEREAS, both fatherless homes and divorce present major societal problems, and we should all be more diligent in seeking remedies for these problems; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we urge and encourage Tennessee's elected officials, government agencies, community leaders, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and citizens to work together to address and resolve the many societal problems that stem from fatherless homes and divorce.